

PUBLIC ADVOCATES OFFICE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 16, 2021

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 341 (McGuire) – Support

Dear Senator McGuire:

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission. Our mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels and the state's environmental goals.

The Public Advocates Office supports SB 341, as amended on April 28, 2021, which would require the California Public Utilities Commission to establish backup power requirements for telecommunications providers to ensure that service can be maintained for at least 72 hours during an electrical outage. This bill would also require that telecommunications providers establish and maintain public outage maps on their websites, and it would require the Office of Emergency Services to adopt requirements for public outage maps established and maintained by telecommunications providers.

We support this bill because it would help protect the safety of Californians in emergency situations by requiring telecommunication providers to maintain service during an electrical outage, allowing 911 outages to be reported in real time, so that emergency responders can address critical calls in an urgent manner.

We look forward to working with you on this legislation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 415-703-5256 or at amy.yip-kikugawa@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Yip-Kikugawa".

Amy Yip-Kikugawa
Acting Director
Public Advocates Office